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LETTER DATED 24 JULY 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to the letter dated 12 July 1995 of the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to you and contained in Security Council document S/1995/566 of the same date, I would like to bring to your attention the fact that Turkey has always attributed utmost importance to the preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, a country with which it maintained close political and economic relations, emanating from a common historical background. However, it is to be noted that safeguarding its own territorial integrity and security is no less important for Turkey.

As Iraq has not been able to exercise its authority over the northern part of its country since 1991 for reasons well known, Turkey cannot ask the Government of Iraq to fulfil its obligation, under international law, to prevent the use of its territory for the staging of terrorist acts against Turkey. Under these circumstances, Turkey's resorting to legitimate measures which are imperative to its own security cannot be regarded as a violation of Iraq's sovereignty. No country could be expected to stand idle when its own territorial integrity is incessantly threatened by blatant cross-border attacks of a terrorist organization based and operating from a neighbouring country, if that country is unable to put an end to such attacks. The recent operations of limited time and scope were carried out within this framework, as explained to the world public.

The allegation that Turkey is persecuting its own people is not worthy of a response.

The combat against all kinds of terrorism requires effective international cooperation between all members of the international community, including the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Being confident that the foregoing will help to clarify the matter, I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hayati GÜVEN
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.